GOLD KEY®

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

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THE TWILIGHT ZONE

ROD SERLING

His nightmares were too real for sleep!

DREAM OF THE DEVIL!

AND OTHER SUPERNATURAL TINGLERS!

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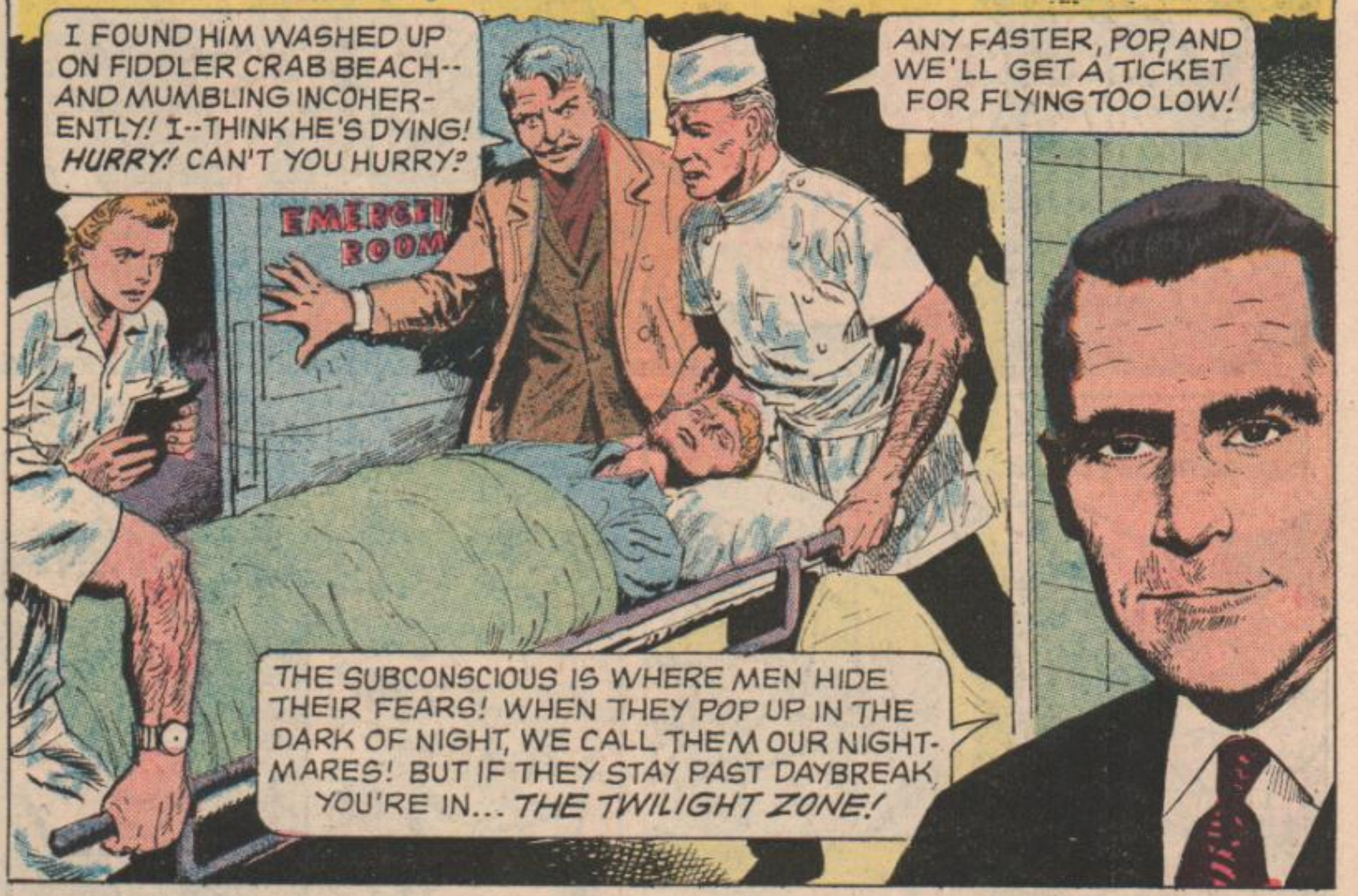
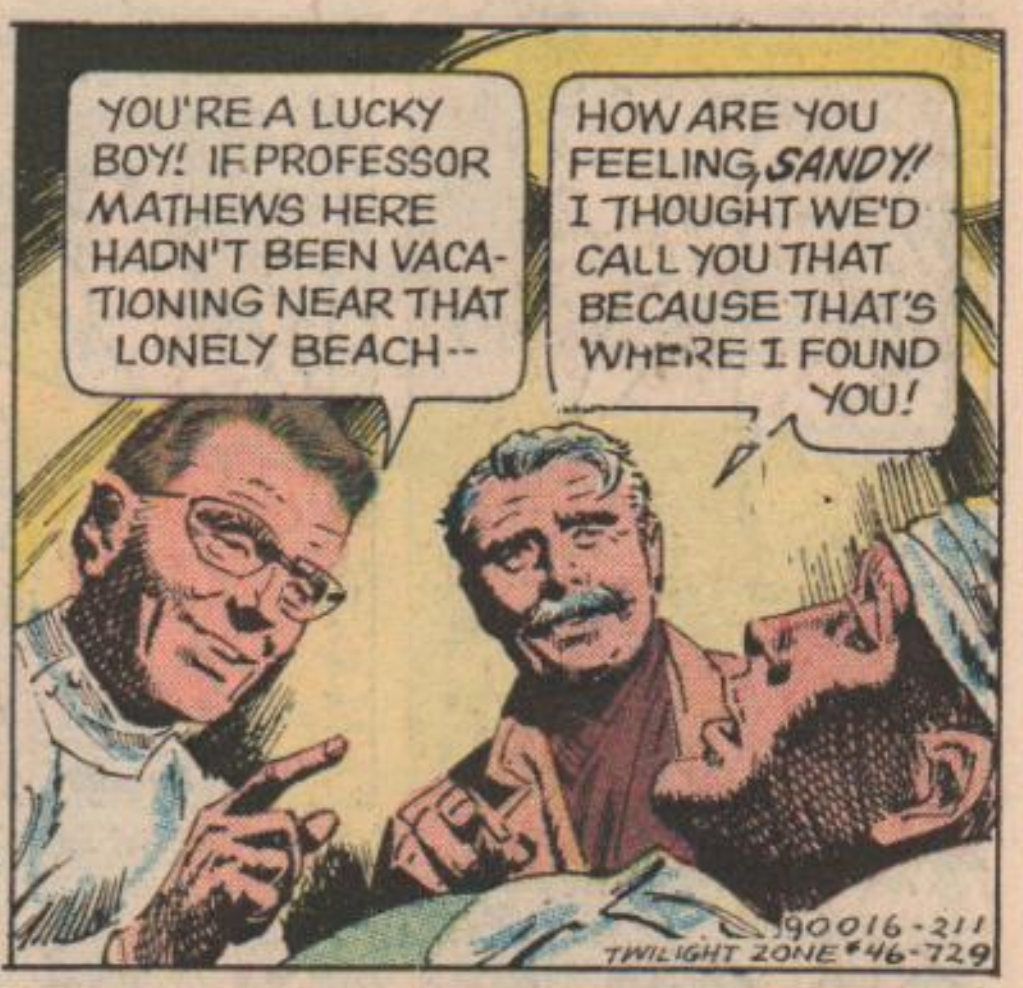
THE TWILIGHT ZONE

DREAM OF THE DEVIL





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I'M OKAY, I GUESS! EXCEPT THIS AMNESIA HAS LEFT ME WITHOUT A PAST!

THE DOCTOR SAYS THAT'S TEMPORARY! YOU'LL REMEMBER EVERYTHING IN A FEW DAYS! MEANWHILE, WHY NOT STAY WITH MILDRED AND ME?

SO *THIS* IS WHERE YOU FOUND ME, PROFESSOR!...MY *"BIRTHPLACE"*, SO TO SPEAK!

NEVER MIND, YOU'LL KNOW YOUR REAL BACKGROUND SOON ENOUGH! COME ON, MILDRED'S GOT A MARVELOUS FISH STEW COOKING!

I TEACH ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY! COMPARATIVE RELIGION, TOO-- GOING BACK TO THE PRIMITIVE! BUT THAT'S MORE A HOBBY--

SANDY! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

F-FOR JUST A MOMENT, SOMETHING YOU SAID-- OR MAYBE SOMETHING I SMELLED OR TOUCHED --MADE ME *ALMOST* REMEMBER!

YOU MUSTN'T STRAIN TO REMEMBER! IT WILL COME, SANDY!

THEY'RE GREAT PEOPLE! SOME DAY, SOMEHOW, I'LL REPAY THEM FOR ALL THIS!

THE DOC SAYS I'VE GOT TO STAY ON THESE SLEEPING PILLS FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS! I HOPE HE'S WRONG!

THE SEDATIVE PULLS SANDY INTO THE DARK TUNNEL OF SLEEP! BUT THEN, OUT OF THAT DARKNESS...

ZANTA NEGA...ZANTA NEGA...MALA VU...ABRAK

WHAT IN--? THAT HORRIBLE HEAD! A SCREECHING VOICE!

ZANTA NEGA...ZANTA NEGA...MALA VU...ABRAKA VU...

NOW THERE ARE TWO--PUTTING SOME KIND OF CURSE ON ME! GOT TO END THIS DREAM...

SANDY TEARS HIMSELF FROM THE FEARSOME TUNNEL OF THE NIGHT...

CLICK!

I'M COVERED WITH SWEAT FROM HEAD TO TOE! IT WAS SO HORRIBLY REAL! GOT TO TELL THE DOCTOR ABOUT THIS!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THOSE FRIGHTENING SYMBOLS MEAN, SANDY! YOUR MIND IS STILL REPAIRING ITSELF! STAY ON THOSE PILLS AND SLEEP A LOT! REST IS YOUR MEDICINE!

I--I'LL TRY, DOC!

BUT THAT NIGHT, SLEEP BRINGS ANYTHING BUT REST...

ZANTA NEGA...ABRAKA VU...TUAX ABRAKA...

THE TWO HORRORS AGAIN!... CLOSER THIS TIME! SHAKING THAT UGLY BIRD'S HEAD OVER ME! I CAN'T STAND IT!

EYYAAGGHH!

I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE OF THIS! WHAT DID I DO TO BRING THOSE TWIN HORRORS DOWN ON ME?

WAIT! THERE-- ON THE FLOOR!

A FEATHER-- FROM THAT BIRD WAND! THEN IT'S NOT A DREAM! OKAY-- TOMORROW NIGHT NO SLEEPING PILL! I'M GOING TO SEE THIS "NIGHTMARE" FOR WHAT IT IS!

AS NIGHT RETURNS, SANDY FEIGNS SLEEP...

HE SLEEPS! NOW FOR THE FINAL RITE-- AND THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE-- THE *POTION OF REGOR!*

ZANTA NEGA... ABRAKA VU... DRINK... DRINK... DRINK...

SOMETHING'S WRONG! HE IS TOO QUIET! HE DOESN'T MOAN AND CRY OUT AS BEFORE!

IN A BLINDING FLASH, SANDY "AWAKENS" AND TEARS AWAY THE MASKS...

I KNEW IT HAD TO BE YOU! BUT *WHY?* ARE YOU BOTH *INSANE?*

WE'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING, SON! BUT PLEASE -- TRUST US! DRINK THIS FIRST!

TRUST YOU? YOU'RE A PAIR OF DEMONS! GET AWAY FROM ME! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

CRASH!

HELP ME! I NEED HELP -- BADLY!

FROM THE WAY YOU'RE DRESSED, I'D SAY YOU DO! HOP IN, SON!

WOW! THAT'S QUITE A STORY! AND YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT CALLING THE POLICE! WE CAN DO IT FROM MY MOTEL!

OKAY-- BUT HURRY! BEFORE THEY ESCAPE!

THE POLICE ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE MATHEWS HOUSE! NOW DRINK UP AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS BLANK MEMORY OF YOURS!

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN HELP ME REMEMBER WHO I AM?

I KNEW ABRAKA WOULD SHOW UP SOON! BUT I HOPED WE'D HAVE THE BOY CLEAR BEFORE THEN!

YES! IF HE'D ONLY DRUNK THE POTION, IT WOULD ALL BE OVER!

SO LONG AS HE COULDN'T REMEMBER WHO HE WAS, HE REMAINED SAFE! BUT IF ABRAKA HAS HIM NOW AND CAN RETURN THE MEMORY OF THOSE EVIL RITES--

MEANWHILE...

REMEMBER--WHATEVER WORD I SAY, YOU MUST RESPOND INSTANTLY! HERE GOES--*ROOM!*

BASEMENT!

BASEMENT!

CANDLES!

CANDLES!

RITES!

RITES!

SATAN!

IT--IT'S COMING BACK TO ME! I--I'M AT COLLEGE!... THERE'S A GROUP--A CLUB--IT'S A COVEN--A SATANIC COVEN!

THAT'S IT, BOY! KEEP REMEMBERING!

SUDDENLY, AS THE DOOR IS FLUNG OPEN...

RUN, BOY-- *RUN!* I'LL HOLD THEM OFF! GO OUT THE WINDOW!

IT'S TOO LATE! ONLY ONE THING CAN SAVE ME! I MUST KILL THEM!

IT'S NOT *YOU* WE'RE AFTER, SON! IT'S--*HIM!* ABRAKA, THE EVIL ONE!

NO! STOP! PUT THAT THING DOWN!

ZANTA NEGA-- ABRAKA VU! FOUL THING! TAKE WING!

NO! STOP! AWWK! THE PAIN! DON'T DO THIS! *AWWK!*

AWKK! AWKK!

HE--HE TURNED INTO AN UGLY, GIANT BIRD! SOMEBODY EXPLAIN THIS TO ME BEFORE I LOSE MY MIND!

WE WERE VACATIONING HERE! YOU CAME TO VISIT US ON YOUR SUMMER COLLEGE BREAK! THEN MR. MATHEWS SAW THE SIGN ON THE BACK OF YOUR NECK!

IT WAS THE SYMBOL OF A SATANIC SECT I HAD STUDIED ABOUT! THIS MAN ABRAKA WAS MAKING YOU ONE OF THEM! YOU DIDN'T REALIZE IT, OF COURSE!

I'M BEGINNING TO REMEMBER NOW! YOU FACED ME WITH THE FACTS THAT DAY ON THE CLIFF!

I TELL YOU, THE ONE YOU CALL MR. TEAL IS ABRAKA, THE EVIL ONE!

YOU'RE CRAZY-- TRYING TO TURN ME AGAINST HIM! HE'S A GREAT MAN! I WON'T LET YOU DO IT! LET ME GO!

WHAT HAVE I DONE? I KILLED THE BOY! I KILLED HIM!

YAAA!

MY FALL PRODUCED AMNESIA! YOU HAD TO EXORCISE THAT EVIL BEFORE MY MEMORY RETURNED -- OR DESTROY ABRAKA! BUT WHY ENDANGER YOURSELVES FOR ME?

DON'T YOU KNOW-- MARTIN?

H-HOW COULD I NOT KNOW? HOW COULD I EVER FORGET A THING LIKE THAT? MOTHER! FATHER!

AND SO THE DEVIL LOSES ANOTHER MATCH! BUT THERE'S ALWAYS ONE MORE VICTIM WAITING TO ENTER THAT ARENA WE CALL ... THE TWILIGHT ZONE!

the Severed HEAD

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The Reverend Walter Prince experienced a nightmare about a woman he did not know, had never seen or even heard of. But this dream-woman existed, and less than twenty-four hours later, the dream in many particulars came true. Fortunately, Dr. Prince himself took part only in the dream, not in the horrible reality.

So vivid, so sinister was the nightmare that he told it the next morning to both his wife and Miss Gertrude Tubby, member of the American Society for Psychical Research. Thus was the dream on record, not merely conveniently recalled after the tragedy.

THE DREAM: A woman hands Dr. Prince a paper ordering her execution. She is calm and willing to die if Dr. Prince will hold her hand. The lights now go out; he can see nothing but feels her hand thrust into his. He places his other hand on her head, finding it severed from her body. He then feels her teeth biting his hand and realizes to his horror that the head is still alive.

THE FACT: Headline in the *Flushing Evening Telegram*: HEAD SEVERED BY TRAIN AS WOMAN ENDS HER LIFE. Part of the news story reads, "In her handbag . . . was found a letter . . . that predicted the existence of life in her body after death, that her head would still continue to live after it had been severed from her body." The *Long Island Farmer* printed the letter itself: "My body is alive without my head, and my head is alive without my body . . . it can see and talk."

Compare the points of resemblance between the dream and the suicide. 1) Dr. Prince saw a pretty, slim, golden-haired woman in her 30's—an accurate description of the dead woman. 2) The dream woman and the dead woman were both willing to die; both came to the place of death willingly. 3) Death in each instance was by decapitation. 4) Both deaths occurred in darkness. 5) The woman's name was Sarah Hand. Repeatedly in the dream the dreamer's attention was called to the word *hand*, symbolizing her name: she asked Dr. Prince to hold her hand; later she took his hand; his hand felt her hair; her teeth bit his hand. 6) Sarah Hand wrote in her letter that her severed head would live on; Dr. Prince in the nightmare horribly felt that the head was alive. 7) He experienced the dream in Flushing, Long Island. The decapitation took place six miles from Flushing. 8) The dream was dreamed during the night of November 27-28, 1917. The suicide occurred on the night of the 28th.

How account for these plural and astonishing similarities? Four possible explanations have been put forth: 1) Telepathy. 2) A spiritual medium takes ordinary telepathy a step farther, pointing out that when a death is predictable (as in suicide), the spirit world receives a message to prepare for the person "crossing over"—Dr. Prince somehow intercepted that message. 3) A psychiatrist relates the dream to Dr. Prince's own complexes and experiences. 4) Dr. Prince himself has said, "It is possible for persons to whom such terms seem explanatory to appeal to vibrations or to the Cosmic Reservoir or the Astral Body going forth to see what it can discover."

Take your choice.

PASSAGE of the DOOMED

ON THE ARCTIC CIRCLE IN THE YEAR 1899... HECTOR, A MALE-MUTE LEAD DOG OWNED BY THE FUR TRADER ETIENNE LEFEVRE, WAS THE ONLY HUSKIE EVER AWARDED A MEDAL OF BRAVERY BY THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY...

IN THE NAME OF QUEEN VICTORIA WE PRESENT THIS MEDAL TO HECTOR FOR LONG SERVICE AND OUTSTANDING BRAVERY!

FOR SAVING THE LIVES OF SEVEN MEN!

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BUT HECTOR IS OLD NOW AND MUST BE RETIRED! WOLF, THE NEW LEAD DOG ETIENNE IS TRAINING, PROVES DIFFICULT...

DOWN! HEEL! HOW WILL I EVER GET THIS BEAST IN HARNESS?

THERE'LL NEVER BE ANOTHER HECTOR!

GRR-R-R!

ETIENNE'S WIFE SUDDENLY BECOMES ILL AND HE MUST GO TO THE MAIN OUTPOST FOR MEDICINE...

FIFTY MILES, ETIENNE -- IT WILL TAKE EVER SO LONG WITH WOLF!

NOT WOLF, MARIE, NO! THIS HAS TO BE THE *FASTEST* TRIP I'VE EVER MADE!

ONE LAST TRIP, OLD FRIEND! AT THE POST, I'LL BUY A NEW LEAD ALREADY TRAINED, AND COMING HOME YOU'LL RIDE ON THE SLED WITH ME!

WOOF! WOOF!

BRAVO! GOOD BOY! KEEP THEM MOVING, HECTOR!

THEY REACH THE POST IN RECORD TIME, BUT HECTOR COLLAPSES...

I'LL GET HELP-- YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

BUT IT IS TOO LATE FOR HELP! HECTOR'S BRAVE HEART GIVES OUT! HE IS BURIED THERE AT THE POST...

AFTER ETIENNE BUYS A WELL-TRAINED LEAD DOG, HE IS AT LAST READY TO RETURN WITH THE PRECIOUS MEDICINE...

I'VE LOST SO MUCH TIME, I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE SHORTEST WAY HOME! THE *PASSAGE OF THE DOOMED!*

NO, ETIENNE, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS! DOZENS OF LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST IN THAT PASSAGE!

THE LEAD DOG ISN'T PULLING WELL AT ALL!

GET IN LINE! *PULL! LEAD!*

CRA-ACK!

APPROACHING THE TREACHEROUS PART OF THE DREAD PASSAGE ALONG THE OCEAN...

HE SEEMS TO BE *AFRAID* OF WHAT HE KNOWS IS COMING!

GR-RRR

AND THEN, A BLIZZARD STRIKES, BLOTTING OUT EVERYTHING WITH ITS STINGING, LASHING PELLETS OF SNOW...

I CAN'T SEE...FEEL SICK...NOT ENOUGH SLEEP...NOT ENOUGH FOOD...

OUT OF THE SWIRLING BLASTS OF SNOW COME GHOSTS OF THE PASSAGE OF THE DOOMED'S VICTIMS...

ETIENNE... ETIEN-N-NE!

YOU'LL DIE! YOU'LL DIE!

COME TO US... COME!

SNOW MADNESS! IT'S ONLY THE *WIND* I HEAR!

THE LEAD DOG...HE'S BROKEN FREE! *NO!* A *HALLUCINATION!*

BUT WE'RE MOVING STEADIER, FASTER... OR IS *THAT* A DELUSION, TOO?

PRECISELY AT THIS MOMENT, IN ETIENNE'S CABIN...

SOMETHING *TERRIBLE* IS HAPPENING, I KNOW IT!

AND ETIENNE HEARS THE FEARFUL SOUND OF ICE BREAKING AWAY FROM THE MAINLAND...

WE'LL BE CARRIED OUT TO SEA--CERTAIN DEATH! IF ONLY I HAD HECTOR, *HE* COULD SAVE US!

MERCIFULLY, HE BLACKS OUT BEFORE THE END COMES...

MIRACULOUSLY HE COMES TO, NEVER KNOWING HOW MUCH TIME HAS PASSED...

HOME! *HOW* DID WE *GET* HERE?

OH, THANK HEAVEN YOU'RE BACK!

YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW THAT YOU HAVE YOUR MEDICINE!

NOW I MUST FEED MY WONDERFUL DOGS!

BUT OUTSIDE...

FIVE DOGS--ONLY FIVE! THE LEAD *IS* GONE! HOW COULD *THEY* GET THROUGH THE PASSAGE OF THE DOOMED?

THEN ETIENNE IS MYSTERIOUSLY ANSWERED...

HECTOR'S MEDAL!... THEN HE--BUT *HOW?*

YES, BY A MIRACLE, THE HEROIC DOG BROUGHT HOME THE SLED AND SAVED THREE MORE LIVES, ETIENNE'S, HIS WIFE'S AND THE NEW BABY TO COME!

END

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

SCENE OF THE CRIME

IN AN EERIE MORNING MIST, A FIGURE MOVES TO THE WALL OF A LONELY COUNTRY BRIDGE...

...STAGGERING UNDER THE WEIGHT OF A *LIMP BODY*...

...WHICH IS QUICKLY DISPOSED OF...

...BRINGING TO AN END *ONE HUMAN LIFE!*

SPLASH!

HE'S GOING DOWN IN A *QUICKSAND MIRE!* THEY'LL *NEVER* FIND HIS BODY...

SORRY, OLD MAN--BUT I NEEDED THE CASH! AND THANKS FOR THE RIDE... HA, HA!

HOBO HITCHHIKER...PICKPOCKET AND PETTY THIEF ERNIE MUDD HAD FINALLY COMMITTED THE *CARDINAL CRIME*--AND IT APPEARED THAT FATE HAD INSURED HIM FROM ANY POSSIBLE PUNISHMENT...

BUT FROM THE MOMENT MR. MUDD COMMITTED *MURDER,* HE WAS UNWITTINGLY ON A PATH TO AN *IRONIC DESTINATION*... IN THE *TWILIGHT ZONE!*

LATER, AS MUDD SPEEDS FROM THE MURDER SCENE OVER A FOG-SHROUDED ROAD...

HEY! *THE WHEEL*...IT'S *FIGHTING* ME ...CAN'T SEEM TO *CONTROL* IT...

IT...WHIPPED RIGHT OUT OF MY HANDS... I'M GOING TO *CRASH!*

A-A MEAN CRACKUP...BUT I'LL *LIVE* THROUGH IT!

CRASH!

I *NEVER* HAD THE WHEEL OF A CAR ACT UP LIKE THAT ON ME BEFORE...IT MUST HAVE BEEN READY FOR THE JUNK HEAP...

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE--*AND FAST!*

A *TRAIN*... PULLING OUT OF THE STATION... *THAT'S* MY ANSWER!

VILLE

MADE IT... AND THE TRAIN'S HEADING *NORTH*...

NOW I'LL JUST TAKE IT EASY AND LET THE TRAIN PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND THAT SWAMP...

BUT AS WE ALL KNOW, THE FUTURE CAN BE COMPLICATED BY THE UNEXPECTED...

CLICK... CLACK

HEY! WHAT GIVES?... WE'VE GONE *OFF THE MAIN TRACK*...WE'RE MOVING *WESTWARD!*

IT MUST HAVE BEEN A *FAULTY SWITCH*-- BUT DON'T WORRY...

...THIS SPUR TRACK LEADS BACK TO THE MAIN LINE JUST *ACROSS* THE SWAMP...

SWAMP! THAT'S ONE PLACE I DON'T *WANT* TO SEE AGAIN...

SCREEEECH

JUST THE *THOUGHT* OF THAT SWAMP GIVES ME THE SHAKES...

I'VE GOT TO HITCH A RIDE... PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN *ME* AND THAT *MIRE*...

A BUS GOING IN THE *OPPOSITE* DIRECTION ... HA, HA ...

I'M AS GOOD AS OUT OF THIS COUNTY... *WHAT LUCK!*

BUT LIKE A COIN--LUCK HAS TWO SIDES... GOOD AND *BAD!*

AS MUDD GETS ON THE BUS...

H-HUH..?

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

POW!

POW!

BLAM!

POW!

LANCE TRANSIT CORP.

HEY, MISTER... DID *YOU* HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS?

WELL, I'LL BE... ALL *FOUR TIRES BLEW AT ONCE!* BUT THAT'S... ALMOST *IMPOSSIBLE...*

ME..? HOW COULD I?

I'LL HAVE TO FIND A PHONE AND CALL THE *REPAIR SHOP!* WE'LL BE STUCK HERE FOR *HOURS...*

HOURS I CAN'T *AFFORD* TO WASTE... I'VE GOT TO *GET OUT* OF THIS AREA!

ON THE RUN, A THOUGHT STRIKES FEAR INTO THE HEART OF ERNIE MUDD...

FIRST IT WAS THE *CAR...* THEN THE *TRAIN...* AND NOW THE *BUS--* CRAZY THINGS HAPPENING!

AND THERE'S *MY TICKET* TO ESCAPE... A SMALL PASSENGER PLANE...

AND *I'M* GOING TO BE ABOARD... IF I HAVE TO PULL A *HIGHJACK!*

GOT ROOM FOR *ANOTHER* PASSENGER? I HAVE THE *FARE*...

WE SEAT *EIGHT*...AND *YOU'RE IT!* HOP ABOARD...

IN FLIGHT, ERNIE MUDD IS TO KNOW A MOMENT OF RELIEF FOR THE FIRST TIME-- BUT IT IS TO BE A *FLEETING* MOMENT!

WELL, I'VE SEEN THE LAST OF THAT HIDEOUS SWAMP! WHAT A NIGHTMARE...

HEY, WHAT GIVES..?

WE'RE *DELIBERATELY* CIRCLING *OVER THE SWAMP!* THE PILOT MUST HAVE *FLIPPED HIS LID*...

I'VE GOT TO *DO* SOMETHING ABOUT IT--*FAST!*

HEY, PILOT--STOP *CLOWNING* AROUND AND FLY A *STRAIGHT COURSE!*

B-BUT I *CAN'T* --THE CONTROLS AREN'T RESPONDING!

IT'S LIKE... *THE PLANE WAS FLYING ITSELF!*

OH, YEAH? WELL, I'LL *TEACH* THIS "BABY" TO FLY RIGHT--*I'M TAKING OVER!*

NO! DO YOU WANT TO KILL US ALL?

GET OUT OF MY WAY, PILOT!

WE'RE IN A DIVE--GET BACK TO THE PASSENGER SECTION...

SECONDS LATER-- IMPACT!

YAAAAAA!

CRAAASH!

...THE JOLT OF WHICH PITCHES ERNIE MUDD RIGHT THROUGH THE COCKPIT WINDOW...

AND IRONICALLY, INTO THE *VERY SWAMP AREA* THAT HAD EARLIER SWALLOWED UP AN OLD MAN...

T-THE QUICKSAND... IT'S DRAGGING ME DOWN! HELP! HELP!

ON SAFE GROUND, THE PASSENGERS EXIT FROM THE BATTERED CRAFT TO SEE A HORRIFYING SIGHT...

GOOD HEAVEN! CAN'T SOMEONE RESCUE HIM?

HELP... (GLUP)... (GLUP)...

I'M AFRAID NOT! IT WOULD BE *SUICIDE* TO GO OUT THERE-- AND BESIDES, IT'S *TOO LATE!*

WHO SAID *BAD LUCK* COMES IN *THREES?* IT TOOK FATE *FOUR* TIMES TO *METE OUT JUSTICE* TO ERNIE MUDD...

...AND *IRONICALLY* RETURN THE KILLER TO... *THE SCENE OF THE CRIME!*

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

The GREAT SALE

"CONNIE" RIVERS, SMALL TIME CON MAN, HAS A STANDARD REPERTORY OF TRICKS! BUT, BEFORE LONG, THEY'RE GOING TO RUN OUT! HE'S GOING TO HAVE AN EXPERIENCE MOST PEOPLE WOULD GIVE THE WORLD FOR... AND IT'S GOING TO COME OUT OF THAT AREA KNOWN AS... THE TWILIGHT ZONE!

HEY, YOU!

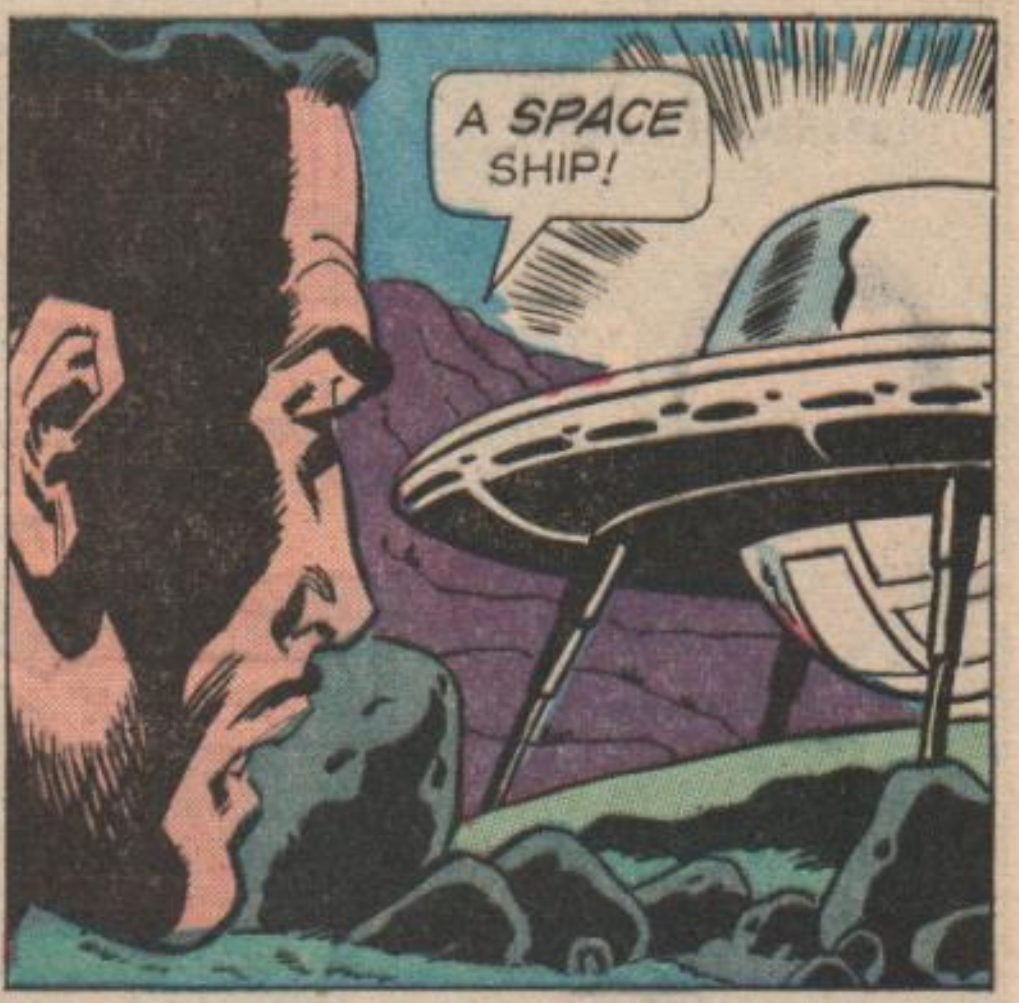
HEY, YOU, CONNIE! GET OUT OF HERE! LEAVE THAT LADY ALONE, YOU TWO-BIT CHISELER!

FURTHERMORE, IF I CATCH YOU AROUND HERE AGAIN, YOU'LL BE SORRY!

MISERABLE LITTLE TOWN! NOBODY APPRECIATES AN ARTIST ANYMORE!... I'LL HEAD FOR GRANITE CITY!

LEAVING SMITHTOWN

THAT NIGHT...
WHAT'S THAT? A METEOR? WOW! I WONDER IF THERE IS ANYTHING LEFT! MAYBE I CAN SELL IT!


A SPACE SHIP!

AN ANIMAL! CAPTURE IT!
HEY! WAIT A MINUTE! LEGGO!

AH! THE ANIMAL IS INTELLIGENT! RELEASE IT!
WHAT'S THAT GLINTING IN THEIR BELTS... RUBIES! THEY'RE AS BIG AS EGGS!

GREETINGS! WE ARE FRIENDLY EXPLORERS! WE HAVE COME FROM A-221, LIGHT YEARS DISTANT FROM HERE! WE SEEK ONLY KNOWLEDGE!

HOW COME I UNDERSTAND YOU?

OUR MINDS ADAPT THEMSELVES TO ALL WAVES IN THE AIR! WE AUTOMATICALLY SPEAK AS YOU DO!

IF I COULD JUST GET MY HANDS ON A RUBY, I'D BE SET FOR LIFE!

AHEM! YOU GUYS JUST HAPPEN TO BE IN LUCK! I'M KING OF THIS HERE PLANET! SINCE YOU'RE EXPLORERS, I'M GOING TO SELL YOU PART OF IT!

SUDDENLY...

HEY! WAIT A MINUTE!

SWOOSH!

SORRY TO FRIGHTEN YOU! THE VACUUM IS THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO LOAD MATERIALS!

I'M...I'M UP IN THE *SPACE SHIP!* I GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

WE DO NOT HAVE TO *BUY* ANYTHING, EARTHLING... BUT WE WERE INSTRUCTED TO BE FAIR! SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN SELL US!

I GOTTA THINK FAST!

WELL, THOSE FORKED LINES ARE RIVERS!

STRANGE ANIMALS!

YEAH, ANIMALS! THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE! YOU HARNESS THEM WITH YOUR VACUUM RAY!

I HOPE THEY SWALLOW THIS! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THIS SHIP!

THANK YOU! THIS MAKES IT ALL INTER-PLANETARY LEGAL, I PRESUME! WHAT DO YOU WISH IN RETURN?

OH, JUST A FEW OF THOSE RED THINGS IN YOUR BELT ... A SOU-VENIR, KIND OF!

BUT THEY ARE MERE BAUBLES! HARDLY A FAIR PRICE FOR SUCH LARGE ANIMALS!

Bill of Sal

THEY ARE REAL! BOY, I PULLED THE WOOL OVER THEIR EYES!

HE SAID THEY WERE BAUBLES... I SHOULD'VE TRIED TO GET MORE!

EVEN THE ADVANCED VACUUM RAY CAN'T HANDLE A FLOWING RIVER...

THE ANIMAL ELUDED US! HOWEVER WE HAVE MANAGED TO VACUUM A HUGE SAMPLE OF ITS "BLOOD" INTO THE HOLD!

CONNIE HAS NO TROUBLE DISPOSING OF THE RUBIES! HE MOVES INTO THE LIFE HE'S ALWAYS DREAMED OF...

OH, BOY! THIS IS THE LIFE!

HOWEVER...

MR. RIVERS?

I SWEAR *THAT'S* HOW I GOT THE RUBIES! I DID NOT STEAL THEM! MEN IN A SPACE SHIP HAD THEM!

JUST TELL IT TO THE JUDGE!

YOU CAN'T *DO* THIS JUST BECAUSE I PULLED A FEW THINGS BEFORE! THIS WAS *HONEST!* I SOLD THEM A RIVER!

CONNIE HAS FINALLY FLIPPED OUT!

MEANWHILE, ON THE PLANET A-221, SCIENTISTS PUZZLE OVER THE STRANGE SUBSTANCES BROUGHT BACK BY THE EXPLORERS...

GYORKA! COME OVER HERE!... LOOK AT THIS!

WE OUGHT TO REPORT THIS TO ADELB!

ADELB, THE BLOOD OF THE ANIMAL BROUGHT BACK BY THE EXPLORERS IS HAVING STRANGE EFFECTS ON THE BARREN LANDS!

WHEN PUT ON BARREN LAND, HUGE PLANTS SPRING UP!

WITH ENOUGH OF THIS MIRACLE SUBSTANCE, WE COULD MOVE ALL OUR RACE ABOVE GROUND!

HMM... AND YOU SAY THIS HUGE ANIMAL LIVES ON THE PLANET EARTH?

HOW MANY LIGHT YEARS SEPARATE THIS PLANET AND OURS? OR, WILL WE FIND OUT TOO SOON? THE ENDING IS WRITTEN AND KNOWN AT THE PRESENT TIME IN... *THE TWILIGHT ZONE!*